



# *A New Drug*

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**Jennifer Messick**

Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor 🍌

(907) 343 6434

Thank you:

Alaska Highway Safety Office

Anchorage Police Department

Municipality of Anchorage

# What Drug Am I?

- He was at a friend's house Tuesday. *"I sat there, and the room spun a little and that's all I really remember,"* said Tyler. Then his family got the scary phone call. Tyler had vomited, suffered seizures and even quit breathing. *"The EMTs had dragged him out of this house on a gurney,"* said Tyler's father. Tyler spent the night in ICU and remained unconscious for five hours.

# What Drug am I?

APD#10-14949

- Crossed raised median 3 times, hit concrete wall 2x, driving on sidewalk w/ broken axle / tire
- 6HGN + vertical 🔊
- .000 BrAC
- Hallucinating
- “*Death is all around me*”
- Going to kill Officer



# What Drug am I?

## SYMPTOMS

- Elevated BP (140-160 / 100-110)
- Rapid heart rate (110-150bpm) 🔊
- can be decreased BP / heart rate
- Anxiety
- Hallucinations (can be intense)
- Numbness / Tingling
- Vomiting



# What Drug am I?

## SYMPTOMS

- Tremors / Seizures
- Unconsciousness
- Paranoia
- 6-8hr high (some effects felt for 24hrs)
- Not detected in blood or urine tests
- Used since 2007
- LEGAL



GUESS?

# Objectives

- Understand what SPICE / K2 is and why it is important
- Recognize signs / symptoms of SPICE / K2
  - Psychoactive compounds
- Distinguish from marijuana
- Identify likely users
- What you can do
  - Stay safe
  - Solid DUI cases

# SPICE

- Plant material (see CD)





# SPICE

- Plant material (see CD)
- Marketed as incense
- Laced with various synthetic compounds that behave like THC
- Smoked or mixed in drink or food
- Sold LEGALLY and LOCALLY
- 1g -3g packages About 2x price of pot
- \$25 - \$40 / g



# SPICE / K2



Ingredients: Baybean, Blue Lotus, Lion's Tail, Lousewort, Indian Warrior, Dwarf Scullcap, Maconha Brava, Pink Lotus, Marshmallow, Red Clover, Rose, Siberian Motherwort, Canavalia Maritime, Leonotis Leonurus, Leonurus Sibiricus, Pedicularis Densiflora, Scutellaria Nana, Vanilla Planifolia, Zorinia Latifolia, Magnolia Officinalis, Rosa Gallica, Trifolium

# Brands/Flavors

- Other Common Brands:



# Brands/Flavors

- Others cont.



# Psychoactive Compounds

**Solid (white powder) or Oil**

- Over 100 Synthetic Cannabinoids
- 5 different Cannabinoids found in 'Spice' by Volker Auwarter (2008)
  - Not all samples contained all 5
- DEA Lab similar findings



# Psychoactive Compounds

**Solid (white powder) or Oil**

- JWH-018 most common
  - Pharmacologically similar to THC
  - Developed in U.S. in 1995
  - Synthetic drug that mimics effects of THC
  - Binds to CB1 Receptor 3:1 (THC=CB1, CB2 1:1)
  - 4 times as potent as THC
  - NOT currently a controlled substance

# Psychoactive Compounds

**Solid (white powder) or Oil**

- HU-210
  - Synthetic cannabinoid
  - 100-800x more potent than THC
  - Binds over 100 times more tightly to CB1 receptor
  - Structurally and pharmacologically similar to THC
  - Sch I Controlled Substance



# Psychoactive Compounds

**Solid (white powder) or Oil**

- CP-47,497

- Synthetic cannabinoid
- Created by Pfizer 1995
- Not structurally related to THC
- NOT currently a controlled substance



- JWH-073

- Synthetic cannabinoid
- Not structurally related to THC
- NOT currently a controlled substance

# SPIICE

v.

# POT ?

- Unregulated mixture of you name it (higher potential for overdose)
  - Mixed / Unpredictable symptoms
    - You are the frontline – Be Careful!
  - Never been tested on humans
  - Longer half-life (prolonged high)
- Same basic compound –  $\Delta^9$ THC
  - Well-known symptoms
  - Well-known duration

# SPIICE

v.

# POT?

- Reports of Addiction / Withdrawal
- Not able to detect in blood or urine
- On set 5- 10 Min
- Hallucinations
- Intense paranoia
- Anxiety
- Increase heart / BP
- Not physically addictive
- Able to detect in blood /urine
- Almost immediate
- No Hallucinations
- No paranoia
- Relaxing
- Increase heart /BP

# SPIICE

v.

# POT?

- Blood shot / Red eyes
- Maybe HGN / VGN
- Lack of Convergence
- Normal Pupil size
- Normal light reaction
- Increase HR / BP
- Rigid muscle tone

- Blood shot / red eyes
- No HGN / VGN
- Lack of Convergence
- Dilated Pupils
- Normal light reaction
- Increase HR / BP
- Normal muscle tone

# Worse than Pot?

- 6 week period (Feb – March 2010) ER
  - St Louis = 30 bad trips
  - Atlanta = 12
  - New Jersey = 2
  - MO Poison Control 10+ (Dec 09 – Jan 2010)



*“When you take these drugs, you are hijacking the part of the brain important for many functions: temperature control, food intake, perception, memory and problem solving”* – Dr. Huestis

Chief of Chemistry and Drug Metabolism  
National Institute Drug Abuse

# Likely Users

- Military
- Slope Workers
- High School
- 14 – 27yoa most common
- Prisoners / Probationers
- Experimental Drug Users
- Anyone needing a clean UA



# What is Everyone Else Doing About It?

## ILLEGAL

In several European and Scandinavian countries



Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee



- Problems with legislation and analog compounds ready to go

# What can you do?

- Be Aware / Spread the word / Stay safe
- Help us identify cases / Frequency
  - Ask if you think it might be Spice
- Incident Documentation - even if you're not sure, even just a paragraph
  - Please send to [messickj@muni.org](mailto:messickj@muni.org)
- Detail observations
- Support Legislation
- Poison Control 1-800-222-1222



# What can you do?

- **REPORT**

DEA would appreciate information related to LEO encounters, identification and abuse of Spice

**DEA Headquarters**

**Attn: Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section**

**8701 Morrisette Dr**

**Springfield, VA 22152**

**(202) 307-7183**

**[ODE@usdoj.gov](mailto:ODE@usdoj.gov)**

# Thank you

If you have additional information to contribute, or  
if you would like to schedule this presentation  
or get a copy of this Power Point,  
please contact

Jenn Messick

[messickj@muni.org](mailto:messickj@muni.org)

907 343 6434

Questions / comments / feedback WELCOMED